

Proposed Amendments to HB 395
Prepared by Mary McCue, Executive Director, Montana Dental Association
February 9, 2007

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Following line 14

Insert: "NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Repayment requirement.** (1) Prior to expending any funds to provide tuition costs for a dental student at the university of Washington school of dentistry pursuant to the regional initiatives in dental education program, the board of regents shall obtain an agreement from the student whereby the student agrees to:

(a) authorize the state of Montana to pay the tuition costs incurred in the student's dental education as determined by any contract between the state of Montana and the university of Washington school of dentistry providing that education; and

(b) actively engage in professional dental practice in Montana or repay amounts expended by the state of Montana, as provided in subsection (2) .

(2)(a) A dentist, upon graduating from the university of Washington school of dentistry pursuant to the regional initiatives in dental education program, who does not engage in professional dental practice within the state Montana must repay 100% of amounts expended by the state of Montana for tuition costs at the university of Washington school of dentistry.

(b) If a dentist, upon graduation from the university of Washington school of dentistry, engages in professional dental practice in Montana in an area other than an underserved area for at least 6 years, the dentist must repay only 50% of the amounts expended by the state of Montana for tuition costs at the university of Washington school of dentistry.

(c) If a dentist, upon graduation from the university of Washington school of dentistry, engages in professional dental practice in Montana in an underserved area for at least 6 years, the dentist will not be required to repay any of the amounts expended by the state of Montana for tuition costs at the university of Washington school of dentistry.

(d) Repayment of amounts expended by the state of Montana on the student's dental education, together with interest, shall begin accruing on a repayment schedule and terms specified by the board of regents. However, interest shall begin to accrue if the board finds that the student has withdrawn from the university of Washington school of dentistry or is otherwise not making satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree or program. Interest charged under this section shall accrue at an annual interest rate equal to that charged for federal Stafford loans at the time interest begins to accrue, which rate shall be adjusted annually to match the federal Stafford loan rate. In no event shall the interest rate be greater than 8%.

(e) Upon recommendation of the dean of the university of Washington school of dentistry, the board of regents may relieve a student of the obligation to repay amounts expended under this section, in whole or in part, where repayment would cause undue hardship.

(3) For the purpose of this section, the Board of Dentistry shall identify and define an "underserved area" in Montana.

(4) Any amounts paid by dental students in accordance with the contractual arrangements authorized under this section shall be deposited into a special revenue account designated the dental school student fund, maintained and separately accounted for by the board of regents which fund may be added to by specific contributions from other sources. The fund shall be expended by the board of regents for tuition costs related to the regional initiatives in dental education program.

Renumber: subsequent sections